

**Before the  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Amendment of Parts 21 and 74	)	WT Docket No. 02-68
of the Commission's Rules with Regard to	)	RM-9718
Licensing in the Multipoint	)	
Distribution Service and in the	)	
Instructional Television Fixed Service for the	)	
Gulf of Mexico	)	

**ORDER EXTENDING TIME FOR FILING OF COMMENTS AND REPLY COMMENTS**

**Adopted:** July 16, 2002

**Released:** July 16, 2002

By the Deputy Chief, Policy and Rules Branch, Public Safety and Private Wireless Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau:

1. On June 14, 2002, the Wireless Communications Association International, Inc. (WCA) filed a Motion to Defer in the captioned proceeding, asking the Commission to hold in abeyance the comment and reply comment dates pending commencement of a proceeding to address comprehensive rule changes that WCA says it is planning to propose.<sup>1</sup> Currently, comments to the *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)*<sup>2</sup> are due July 16, 2002, and reply comments are due August 12, 2002.<sup>3</sup> WCA's motion is granted to the extent indicated below.

2. WCA contends that we should extend the comment and reply comment filing deadlines for an indefinite period because it will soon recommend comprehensive rule changes that will result in a sweeping overhaul of the technical and licensing rules for the Multipoint Distribution Service (MDS) and Instructional Television Fixed Service (ITFS).<sup>4</sup> WCA says that, absent unforeseen developments, it will file such recommendations in September 2002.<sup>5</sup> WCA notes that the *NPRM* proposes to use the existing MDS/ITFS regulatory regime as the foundation for licensing of MDS stations in the Gulf of Mexico, and argues that administrative efficiency will be achieved by holding this proceeding in abeyance pending commencement of the broader proceeding contemplated by WCA.

---

<sup>1</sup> Wireless Communications Association International, Inc. Motion to Defer (filed June 14, 2002) (Motion).

<sup>2</sup> Amendments of Parts 21 and 74 of the Commission's Rules with Regard to Licensing in the Multipoint Distribution Service and in the Instructional Television Fixed Service for the Gulf of Mexico, *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, WT Docket No. 02-68, 17 FCC Rcd 8446 (2002).

<sup>3</sup> The *NPRM* called for comments to be filed 60 days and replies to be filed 90 after Federal Register publication, which occurred on May 17, 2002. See 67 Fed. Reg. 35083 (May 17, 2002).

<sup>4</sup> Motion at 1.

<sup>5</sup> *Id.* at 4.

3. It is the policy of the Commission that extensions of time are not routinely granted.<sup>6</sup> Such extensions may be warranted when, among other things, an extension may allow interested parties to craft a comprehensive proposal that could affect the usefulness of comments filed in response to an earlier deadline, as in the present matter.<sup>7</sup> However, we are not persuaded that an indefinite extension is in the public interest at this time. Rather, we will extend the comment and reply comment periods to October 1 and October 31, respectively. If, upon the filing of WCA's anticipated petition for rulemaking, it appears that a further extension in this proceeding is in order, WCA may make such a request at that time.

4. Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED that, pursuant to Section 4(i) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. § 154(i), and Section 1.46 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.46, WCA's Motion to Defer, filed June 14, 2002, IS GRANTED IN PART to the extent indicated above, and the periods for filing comments and reply comments ARE EXTENDED to October 1, 2002, and October 31, 2002, respectively.

5. This action is taken under delegated authority pursuant to Sections 0.131 and 0.331 of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.131, 0.331.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Scot Stone  
Deputy Chief, Policy and Rules Branch  
Public Safety and Private Wireless Division  
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau

---

<sup>6</sup> See 47 C.F.R. § 1.46(a).

<sup>7</sup> See, e.g., Improving Public Safety Communications in the 800 MHz Band, *Order Extending Time for Filing of Reply Comments*, DA 02-1523 (WTB PSPWD rel. June 27, 2002).